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**SEPTEMBER MEETING:** The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 11th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner of McAllister and Larkin Sts. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

The attention of the Association has been taken up to a large extent during the present year with conservational measures of scope varying from strictly local to nation-wide and international. It would seem opportune that we review the situation and thus secure a comprehensive idea of present conditions and future prospects and, as well, a conception of what we may do to help the good work along.

To this end our Past Honorary President, Dr. Harold C. Bryant, has consented to deliver an address at this meeting on the subject of "Current Conservational Measures in California," for which his work as Economic Ornithologist of the Fish and Game Commission specially equips him. Visitors will be made welcome and all members will be vitally interested in the subjects treated.

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**SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP** will be taken on Sunday, September 14th, to Baumberg Station, a short distance below Mt. Eden, on the Alvarado Branch, for the purpose of observing waders and shore birds. The lists on this trip run from thirty to thirty-five interesting species, including avocets and stilts.

Take Southern Pacific ferry leaving San Francisco at 8:20 a.m. East Bay members may take train at First St. and Broadway, Oakland, at 9:00 a.m. Purchase round trip ticket to Baumberg, about \$1.10 from San Francisco or about 75c from Oakland. Return train leaves Baumberg at 4:30 p.m., reaching San Francisco at 5:50 p.m. Bring lunch and canteen.

The club house at Baumberg may be reached by automobile *via* the highway from San Lorenzo to Mt. Eden and Alvarado, turning off toward the bay about three-quarters of a mile below Mt. Eden four corners. Or, otherwise, from car line at Haywards, *via* the road to Mt. Eden and thence as above.

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE AUGUST MEETING:** The ninety-first regular meeting of the Association was held on August 11th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Mrs. Kibbe, secretary *pro tem*; eleven members and four guests in attendance.

The meeting was devoted to an exchange of vacation experiences and was perhaps the most fruitful one of this sort in the history of the Association. Miss Schroder led off with an account of a seventeen-day sojourn at Fallen Leaf Lake, July 12-28. In this time she listed some forty species of bird, with many interesting individual performances. Notable occurrences included a flight of about eighty white pelicans, in characteristic formation; the scarcity of water ouzels in customary haunts, only one pair being reported from Angora lakes; only one gull encountered; many horned larks met on the way up, between Folsom and Placerville.

Mrs. Mexia gave an interesting account of her wanderings about Portland, Vancouver, Victoria, the Inland Passage, Mt. Robson, Jasper and Glacier National Parks, with characterizations of a porcupine celebrating the completion of a toothsome repast to repletion, demonstrating his appreciation of civilized grub as contrasted with the tree bark of his accustomed menu.

David Levy read the list of birds observed by him during a trip through Arizona, Texas, Arkansas and Wyoming, noting in addition to birds familiar hereabouts, the following: White-winged dove, white-necked raven, Botteri sparrow and phainopepla; Texas nighthawk and meadowlark; bob white, red-headed woodpecker, chimney swift, ruby-throated hummer, least flycatcher, blue jay, Baltimore oriole, purple grackle, cardinal, summer tanager, loggerhead shrike, mocking bird, wood thrush, lark bunting, purple martin, catbird.

Mr. Parry sketched his wanderings to the ocean shore, Los Gatos and the San Joaquin Valley and commented without bitterness upon the slight assistance rendered by birds toward learning their names.

Mr. Elmore noted interesting features of an auto trip to Sequoia National Park.

Mrs. Kibbe noted outstanding features of her summer observations; violet green swallows nesting around Asilomar and linnets nesting inside the tent houses there; Jaegers found at Bird Rock, near there; numerous Bell sparrows on Loma Prieta and a flock of western martins around the summit; two western martins found at the Tamalpais mountain theatre and the distribution of gnatcatchers all over that mountain in early August.

Mr. Smith presented his usual interesting account of his annual outing, prefacing it with high tribute to the Grinnell-Storer volume on "Animal Life in the Yosemite," which he commended as a necessity to anyone concerned with vertebrate life in the Sierra. The route followed was via the Alpine Highway to the Carson Pass and then down into West Carson Canyon. Mockingbirds were found at San Andreas. At Silver Lake, mountain bluebirds and chipping sparrows were common and green-tailed towhees were found in remarkable numbers. A family of Williamson sapsuckers exhibited their justly celebrated peculiarities. On Carson Spur, rock wrens were numerous and unafraid. Every glacial lake had its ouzel, out in the open granite formations. Cliff swallows were found at 9,500 feet over Fourth of July Lake, and here also came the climax of a search of several years' duration for the Sierra rosy finch.

A badger was seen at Wood Lake, but no porcupines nor signs thereof. Only one gray squirrel was found along the entire route and not a single song sparrow. Jeffrey pines were very scarce, as were all sorts of cones and acorns. No snake of any sort was encountered on the trip. Taken all in all, Mr. Smith considers the territory traversed as second to none other from the standpoint of an observer of bird life in the Sierra.

## FIELD NOTES

**Speed of the Brown Pelican.** Much has been written on the cleverness of the Brown Pelican, in taking advantage of air currents, especially of the Santa Barbara Channel. Over a period of several years in the past I have driven on the highway which follows the coast a large portion of the distance from San Luis Obispo to Santa Barbara.

I surmise that the pelican roosts on some of the southern rocks or islands of the Channel, for they come from that direction in the morning and start fishing in the kelp beds, near the shore, working north until about 4 p.m. in the winter and 7 p.m. in the summer.

Along this stretch of coast the wind is strong and the prevailing direction is from the north-east. When quitting time has arrived, the pelican folds up his neck and starts south, keeping close to the shore and below the tops of the bluffs, which are from fifty to one hundred feet high. These flights are accomplished for miles without a movement of the wings, but when the birds cross any of the many deep coulees running to the ocean, the wind strikes them with full force and they will rise up in the air from ten to twenty feet and use their wings most vigorously until this cross air current is passed. When they reach El Pismo beach, which is about two miles long, they must again use their wings and here, along the hard sands of the beach, is where I have timed them.

Their speed, in practically calm air, reaches 14 miles per hour; in a half-gale, it rises to 16 miles per hour; with the wind blowing at fifty miles per hour, the birds travel at the rate of 22 miles per hour.

The time at the feeding grounds in summer, is from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., or fourteen hours; in winter, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or eight hours. The difference of six hours in the feeding period seems to be more than would be consumed in securing food for the young.

**Speed of the Road Runner.** Although they are no longer common, I have found these birds from the Upper Lake to Santa Barbara, in the Coast Range; near Hanford in the San Joaquin Valley and in the Sierra foothills near Woodlake. Curious as to their speed, I have often chased them in a machine, only to have them dodge off the road into the brush or ditch, and the question of speed was left in doubt.

On December 6th, 1923, as I came out of King City and approached the long concrete bridge over the Salinas River, a road runner jumped off the guard rail along the approach of the bridge and started for the west bank about a half-mile away.

It is often said that all things come to him who waits. (long enough?), and I at once resumed my efforts to determine road runner speed. At 26 miles per hour, the bird jumped to the side rails and I nearly ran by it, but by swerving in close and using my horn I had it going again. The pace it would stand without trying to dodge was around 20 miles per hour. A blast of the horn would increase this to 22 miles, but it soon dropped back to about 20 miles. On reaching the further end of the bridge, the bird turned off and stopped in the open, showing no sign of distress or fear. I judged it to be full grown, and it did not resort to the use of its wings at any time of the chase.

**The Non-conforming Sierra Creeper.** In the summer of 1923 we were camped in one place in the Sierra for three days and during lunch time each day we were entertained by a Sierra creeper hitching and spiralling its way up a dead tree at the end of our table.

## THE GULL

There was one person present who found difficulty in distinguishing the creeper from the nuthatch and I went to some pains to furnish an explicit description of their respective feeding habits, laying especial emphasis upon the fact that the creeper could always be relied upon to work from the bottom *up*. No sooner had I finished this effort than the creeper deliberately walked *down* the trunk to the water at the base of the tree and started drinking, which consumed considerable time, owing to the shape of its bill.

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CARL R. SMITH.

**AUGUST FIELD TRIP** was taken on Sunday, the 17th. The beautiful terraced gardens of Mr. J. Frank Wadsworth at Landsdale were visited again. In the bright morning sunlight, the flowers beamed at us,—the exquisite blue morning glory with a golden centre, the Mexican shell flower, whose bloom lasts only for a day; the graceful lavender meadow rue from China, the phlox of many different colors, daffodils, gladioli, sunflowers and many others. An Anna hummer rested just long enough upon a flower to have his picture taken.

In Mrs. Wadsworth's interesting herb garden, back of her house, grows a plant that emits an inflammable gas. The completed waterfall will soon be a reality under Mr. Wadsworth's industrious hands. Already the winding stairway leads from the swimming to the lower pools, where water lilies will shelter the fish and ferns will nod from the crevices in the rocks. Many improvements have been made since last Spring.

From the topmost terrace we followed the trail along the hillside, thence down to the Cascades subdivision at Fairfax and up-stream as far as the swimming pool. Since hunters were shooting beyond this point it was considered inadvisable to go further. Some of the party then left for home via Fairfax, while others went up the incline railway at Manor and walked along the road down to Fairfax station.

Birds encountered were: Western, California and Heermann gulls, cormorant and ruddy duck; phalarope, sandpiper, band-tailed pigeon, turkey vulture and kingfisher; Anna hummer, western flycatcher, California jay, crow and linnet; green-backed goldfinch, song sparrow, San Francisco and California towhees and a swallow; Hutton vireo, (heard), pileolated warbler, creeper, (heard), titmouse and chickadee; bush and wren-tits and thrushes which seemed rather small for russet-backs, which they probably were. Twenty-eight species.

Members in attendance: Mesdemoiselles Olive Burroughs, Cohen, Lindemann, Nieuburg and Schroder; Mesdames Kelly, Kibbe, Mexia, Parry and Witt; Messrs. Myers, Parry and Eric Jacobs. As guests, Mrs. Furlong, Felix Jacobs, Scout Levinger and Master Parry. Thirteen members and four guests.

DOROTHY S. SCHRODER.

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## AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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Meets second Thursday of each month, at 8:00 p.m., in Assembly Hall of San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets.

Address Bulletin correspondence to President.

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